



FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES DIVISION FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

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OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SAFETY BULLETIN

Regulations for Grilling on Balconies of Multi-Family Residential Buildings (Apartments and Condominiums) and Storage of Liquefied Petroleum (LP) Gas Containers

The Frederick County Fire Prevention Code and the State Fire Prevention Code (Fire Codes) both prohibit the use of hibachi, gas-fired grills, charcoal grills or other similar devices on any balcony or under any overhanging portion or within 15 feet of any structure.



1. For other than one- and two family dwellings, no hibachi, gas-fired grill, charcoal grill, or other similar devices used for cooking, heating, or any other purpose, shall be used or kindled on any balcony or under any overhanging portion or within 15

feet of any structure. (NFPA 1, Fire Code, 1:10.11.7 as modified by State code)

The State of Maryland and Frederick County have experienced major fires in multi-family structures over the years where cooking fires on balconies and decks have ignited combustibles and have spread to the neighboring residential units and the building.



Additionally, the fire codes limit the storage of LP cylinders within multi-family buildings.

1. Storage of cylinders within a residential building, including the basement or any storage area in a common basement of a multiple-family building and attached or detached garages, shall be limited to cylinders each with a maximum water capacity of 2.7 lb and shall not exceed 5.4 lb aggregate water capacity per each living space unit. (NFPA 1: 69.5.3.5).

Note: A multi-family structure is any apartment building or condominium style of building that contains more than 3 dwelling units with independent cooking and bathroom facilities.

Note: This law does not apply to one- and two-family dwellings; however, general safety guidelines should be followed. [Read about these safety guidelines...](#)

Warning: Failure to comply with the Frederick County Fire Prevention Code (Section 1-2-64) is considered a civil fire code infraction and is punishable by a fine. The fine for violating the above referenced code is \$500.00. Each day such a violation is permitted to exist shall be considered a separate infraction.